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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR ETCHING METAL AND ALLOY SURFACES

(57) Abstract: A process for etching a metal or alloy surface which comprises applying an etch-resist ink by ink jet printing to selected areas of the metal or alloy, solidifying the etch-resist ink without the use of actinic light and/or particle beam radiation and then removing the exposed metal or alloy by a chemical etching process wherein the etch-resist ink comprises the components: A) 60 to 100 parts carrier vehicle comprising one or more components which contain at least one metal chelating group; D) 0 to 40 parts colorant; and E) 0 to 5 parts surfactant; wherein the ink has a viscosity of not greater than 30 cPs (mPa.s) at the firing temperature, all parts are by weight and the total number of parts A)+B)+C) = 100.